

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**GRAZING LAND MECHANICAL TREATMENT
(Acre)
CODE 548**

DEFINITION

Modifying physical soil and/or plant conditions with mechanical tools by treatments such as pitting (aerating), contour furrowing, and ripping or sub-soiling.

PURPOSE

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to accomplish one or more of the following :

- Fracture compacted soil layers and improve soil permeability
- Reduce water runoff and increase infiltration
- Break up sod bound conditions and thatch to increase plant vigor
- Renovate and stimulate plant community for greater productivity and yield
- Improve wildlife habitat.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment may be applied on pastureland and grazed forest land.

CRITERIA

Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment shall be designed and applied in a manner to accomplish the desired purpose(s). Treatment shall be limited to soils and slopes where surface disturbances will not result in unacceptable levels of soil erosion. Areas to be treated shall be relatively free of undesirable or noxious plants that are likely to increase because of surface disturbance.

CONSIDERATIONS

All treatments shall be planned on the contour when conditions warrant.

Plant communities are usually more diverse and provide improved wildlife habitat following disturbance via grazing land mechanical treatment.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment shall be prepared for each site in accordance with the criteria previously stated. Specifications shall be recorded using specification sheets, job sheets, narrative statements in conservation plans, or other acceptable documents.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

If the desired effects of this practice is lost over time, the practice may need to be repeated. *Implementation of a prescribed grazing plan (see the Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV, Prescribed Grazing, Code 528A) will assist in the long term operation and maintenance of this practice.*

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
